

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

May 23, 2008

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF APPROXIMATELY
650 ACRES FROM NA PALI-KONA FOREST
RESERVE (TMK (4) 1-4-001: portion 003), WAIMEA
DISTRICT, KAUAI, FOR SET ASIDE TO HONO O NA
PALI NATURAL AREA RESERVE

DESCRIPTION OF AREA/CURRENT USE:

TMK 1-4-001-003 is currently comprised of a portion of Na Pali Kona Forest Reserve and the Alakai Wilderness Preserve, and lies within the Protective Subzone of the Conservation District. Approximately 650 acres of this Forest Reserve land ("Proposed Hono O Na Pali expansion"), located between and adjacent to the existing Hono O Na Pali Natural Area Reserve and the Alakai Wilderness Preserve is currently managed as a Forest Reserve and is used by the public as a public hunting area and for public recreation (hiking).


PROPOSED USE:

The proposed Hono O Na Pali expansion is recommended for inclusion in the Natural Area Reserve System, to provide increased protection and heightened management attention for a contiguous area running from the top of Mt. Waialeale to the ocean. This area contains intact native wet forest with several species of rare and endangered plants from the high-elevation bog community, is part of the core habitat for several species of endangered forest birds, and is likely rich with hundreds of species of native invertebrates. The draft proposal, approved in concept unanimously by the Natural Area Reserve Commission in August 2003, is attached as Exhibit 1.

ANALYSIS:

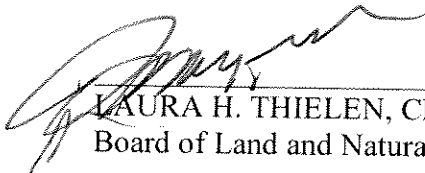
- 2) Authorize the Chairperson to set the date and time for the public hearing.
- 3) Authorize the Chairperson to appoint a hearing master for the public hearing.

Respectfully submitted,



PAUL J. CONRY, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



LAURA H. THIELEN, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1: Proposal for the Extension of Hono O Na Pali Natural Area Reserve
- Exhibit 2: Submittal for the meeting of the Board of Land and Natural Resources Friday, October 28, 2005
- Exhibit 3. Minutes for the meeting of the Board of Land and Natural Resources Friday, October 28, 2005

**PROPOSAL FOR THE EXTENSION OF
HONO O NA PALI NATURAL AREA RESERVE**

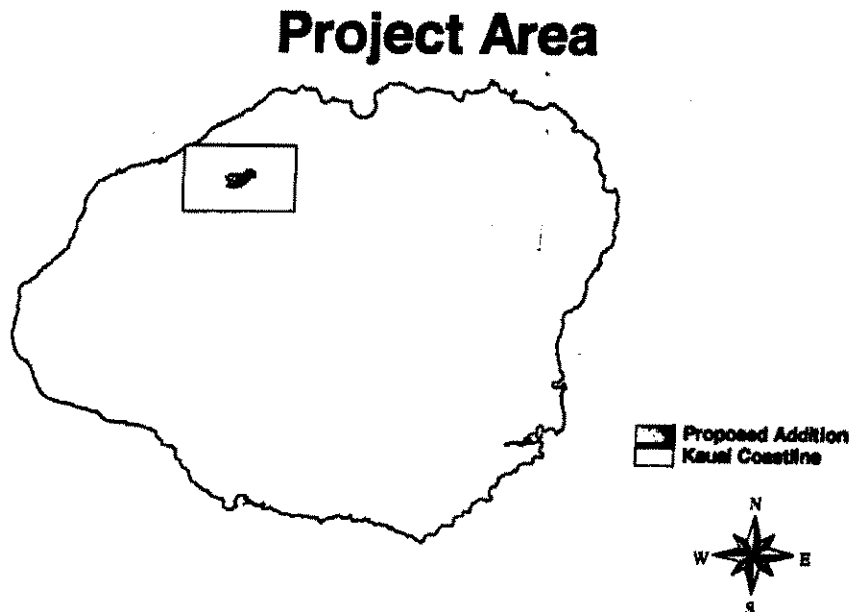
September 2003

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The section of the Na Pali-Kona Forest Reserve between the Hono o Na Pali Natural Area Reserve (NAR) and the Alakai Wilderness is proposed for addition to the existing Hono o Na Pali NAR. Addition of this area would connect the NAR to the Wilderness Preserve and create an contiguous area of protection running from the mountains to the ocean. Several species of rare and endangered plants are contained within the natural bog communities of this area and warrant continued protection.

II. INTRODUCTION (General)

DLNR proposes adding approximately 650 acres of the portion of the Na Pali-Kona Forest Reserve located between the existing Hono o Na Pali NAR and the Alakai Wilderness to Hono o Na Pali NAR.



The area proposed for addition to the existing NAR has scientific value as an accessible location for study of threatened and endangered plants and animals, hosts several high elevation bogs, and contains several rare and endangered native species.

III. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Past Land Use

The area described is located in the Conservation District and is part of the Na Pali-Kona Forest Reserve. The predominant past use of the area has been for recreation, conservation, and scientific research. The Na Ala Hele Pihea Trail forms the western border of the proposed addition, while the Na Ala Hele Alakai Swamp Trail follows the southern border of the proposed addition.

Present Land Use

The area continues to be used for conservation and recreation purposes. In addition, public hunting is allowed. The proposed addition is within State Hunting Unit E, the same State Hunting Unit as Hono o Na Pali NAR and the Alakai Wilderness Preserve.

Cultural/Recreational Uses

At the present time, there are no known cultural uses of this area.

Conservation History

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and DLNR entered into a cooperative agreement in 1996 to carry out actions aimed at the construction and maintenance of fencing to protect nine high elevation bogs from the destructive actions of feral ungulates. While no bogs within the proposed addition were fenced, there are at least five identified bogs in this area that would benefit from inclusion in the NAR and associated management actions.

In addition, over the past decade, the Na Ala Hele program has constructed a boardwalk over most of the Alakai Swamp Trail and the Pihea trail that form the border for the proposed addition to the NAR. This boardwalk has improved access for scientists, hikers, nature lovers, bird watchers, photographers, and hunters, and at the same time has increased protection for the natural resources by providing a clear path for users of the area, limiting the amount of unintentional damage from trampling.

Previous Studies

While scientific research has likely occurred in this area, there is no specific collection of research covering this area.

IV. JUSTIFICATION (Specifics)

Scientific Value

This area may be of scientific value due to its accessibility and the number of native plants and animals.

Representativeness

No specific surveys have been conducted in the area proposed for addition to the NAR, but from brief visual surveys, the proposed addition to the Hono o Na Pali NAR contains fairly intact example of native 'ohi'a dominated forest and montane wet forests.

Rarity (species or within the system)

One of the natural communities found within the proposed addition, *Metrosideros polymorpha* mixed montane bog ('ohi'a mixed montane bog), can be considered rare.

More importantly, the area proposed for addition to the NAR is an important transition area from the natural communities found in the Alakai Wilderness Preserve to those found in the Hono o Na Pali Natural Area Reserve.

According to records of the Hawaii Natural Heritage Program and field notes by biologists, the following rare species have been observed within the proposed addition:

- Plants:
 - Endangered: *Alsinidendron lychnoides* (kuawawaenohu)
 - Threatened: *Cyanea recta* ('oha, haha, 'oha wai)
 - Species of Concern: *Lobelia yuccoides* (panaunau)
Asplenium schizophyllum
Lysimachia daphnoides (lehua makanoe)
Eurya sandwicensis (anini, wanini)
Lagenifera erici
 - Candidate: *Dryopteris tenebrosa*
 - Rare: *Dubautia knudsenii* ssp *nagatae* (na'ena'e)
Myrsine petiolata (kolea)
Melicope waialealae (alani)

Of these plants, *Lysimachia daphnoides* (kolokolo kuahiwi), *Dubautia knudsenii* ssp. *Nagatae* (na'ena'e), *Myrsine petiolata* (kolea), and *Melicope waialealae* (alani) are endemic to Kauai.

- Birds
 - Endangered: *Myadestes palmeri* (pualohi)
Anas wyvilliana (koloa)
Pterodroma sandwichensis (Hawaiian petrel; 'ua'u)
Myadestes myadestinus (Kauai thrush, kama'o) (believed to be extinct)
Psittirostra psittacea ('o'u) (last observed in 1989 and believed extinct).
 - Threatened: *Puffinus auricularis newell* (Newell's shearwater; 'a'o)
 - Rare: *Vestiaria coccinea* ('i'iwi)
Himatione sanguinea ('apapane)

Hemignathus stejnegeri (Kaua'i 'amakihi)
Chasiempis sandwichensis sclateri ('elepaio)
Hemignathus parvus ('anianiau)
Loxops caeruleirostris (Kaua'i 'akepa)

At least two species of *Drosophila* collected in this area during past studies in the area are proposed candidates for listing. It is suspected that thorough surveys would discover additional species of rare native invertebrates within the area proposed for addition.

Finally, most of the proposed addition (with the exception of a small area in the southwest corner) is included within the recently designated critical habitat for threatened and endangered plants on Kauai. Specifically, the proposed addition is considered critical habitat for the following plants: *Exocarpus luteolus*, *Stenogyne campanulata*, *Platanthera holochila*, *Phyllostegia wawrana*, *Schiedea kauaiensis*, *Remya montgomeryi*, *Adenophorus periens*, and *Alsinidendron lychnoides*.

Biological/Ecological Design

The proposed addition to the Hono o Na Pali NAR primarily consists of 'ohi'a dominated forest communities, including a few small 'ohi'a mixed montane bogs that are part of the largest system of high elevation bogs in the Hawaiian Islands. More specific ecological information will have to be gathered through surveys.

Size

The overall size of the proposed addition to Hono o Na Pali NAR is approximately 650 acres.

Threats (Human/Biological)

Threats to the proposed addition to the Hono o Na Pali NAR include:

- grazing and trampling by feral ungulates, including pigs, deer, and goats; and
- invasion by non-native plants.

Present Level of Protection

The area under consideration for addition is protected by the rules and regulations pertaining to Conservation Districts and Forest Reserves. However, as part of the Forest Reserve, it does not receive the same level of management attention as do NARs and the Alakai Wilderness.

Long-term Ecological Viability

Adding this section to the NAR would connect the existing Hono o Na Pali NAR to the Alakai Wilderness Preserve. This connection would facilitate ecosystem-level conservation efforts by protecting a contiguous block of native habitat from Mount Waialeale to the ocean and result in increased protection for both the existing NAR and the Alakai Wilderness. Protection of additional bogs would enhance the long-term ecological viability of this natural community and better protect it against threats of feral animals and invasive species. Inclusion of the trail corridors of Pihea Trail and Alakai

Swamp Trail within the proposed addition would provide additional funding opportunities for long-term management of these trails.

Environmental Consequences of No Action

The environmental consequence of no action on the northern section would result in limited protection for the strip of land bridging the Hono o Na Pali Natural Area Reserve and the Alakai Wilderness.

Urgency

While there is no immediate urgency to the proposed addition, failure to grant additional protection to this area as a NAR could reduce the quality of the natural resources over the long-term.

V. MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Threats Requiring Management

Threats to the proposed addition to the Hono o Na Pali NAR include:

- grazing and trampling by feral ungulates, including pigs, deer, and goats; and
- invasion by non-native plants.

Administrative (size, boundaries, access: roads & trails, maps more specific than in introduction, TMKs)

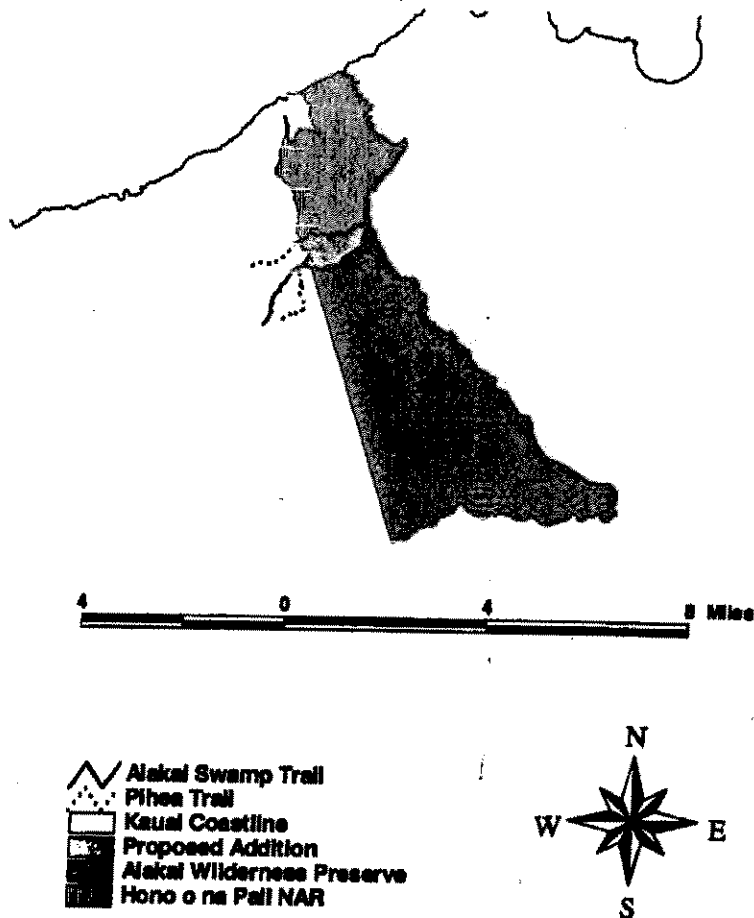
The approximate size of the proposed addition to Hono o Na Pali NAR is approximately 650 acres.

The boundaries of the proposed addition correspond to easily identifiable features. The northern boundary is the current boundary of the existing Hono o Na Pali NAR; the eastern boundary is the District boundary between Hanalei and Waimea Districts; the southern boundary is the current boundary of the Alakai Wilderness Preserve, and the western boundary is the Pihea Trail. This proposal envisions including the corridors of both the Alakai Swamp Trail and the Pihea Trail within the proposed addition to the existing NAR.

Access into the proposed addition is through the existing Pihea Trail along the western boundary and through the Alakai Swamp Trail along the southern boundary.

The area proposed for addition is State-owned Forest Reserve land currently under the administration of DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and is part of TMK 4-1-4-001-003.

Hono o Na Pali NAR Proposed Addition



VI. PUBLIC SUPPORT

Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals Contacted

Stakeholder Identification

Potential stakeholders include:

- DLNR, Na Ala Hele program
- DLNR, Division of State Parks
- DLNR, State Historic Preservation Division
- Kauai Watershed Partnership
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Kauai County
- Kokee Natural History Museum
- Kauai Hunting Association

- Kauai Aquatic Life and Wildlife Advisory Committee
- University of Hawai'i
- The Nature Conservancy
- National Tropical Botanical Garden
- Others.

Support Letters

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES

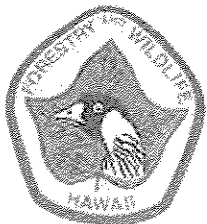
- Information & Discussions with NARS Staff, Kauai Branch & Administration
- DLNR, Natural Area Reserves System. Hono o Na Pali Natural Area Reserve Management Plan. November 1989.
- Cooperative Agreement between Board of Land and Natural Resources, Wellington Fencing Company, and the US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service for Bog Fencing on Kauai (FWS No. 14-48-0001-96607). 1996.
- Hawaii Natural Heritage Program Database
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Maps for Threatened and Endangered Species on Kauai
- David, Reginald. Field Notes, 1975 – 2002.

**** Legal Abstracts will be required for final Board approval ****

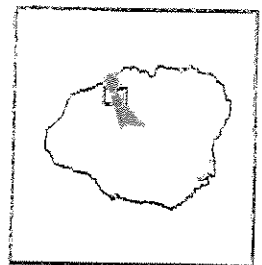
**Hono O Na Pali
Natural Area Reserve**

**Proposed
Expansion**

Alakai Wilderness Preserve



**Conceptual Map
Hono O Na Pali
Natural Area Reserve
Proposed Expansion**



Map Revised, ODFW
January 2004

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

October 28, 2005

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING
DESIGNATION INTO THE NATURAL
AREA RESERVE SYSTEM STATE FOREST RESERVE
LANDS AT HONO O NA PALI, ISLAND OF KAUAI, AND
STATE FOREST RESERVE LANDS AT POAMOHU,
ISLAND OF OAHU

APPLICANT: Department of Land & Natural Resources
Division of Forestry & Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

LOCATION: Portion of Government lands situated at Hono o Na Pali, Kauai,
identified by TMK: 1-4-001-003; and

Portion of Government lands situated at Poamoho, Oahu, identified
by TMK: 7-2-001-006

AREA OF PARCEL: Hono o Na Pali: approximately 650 acres

Poamoho: approximately 1,300 acres

DESCRIPTION OF AREA/CURRENT USE:

TMK 1-4-001-003 ("Proposed Hono o Na Pali expansion") is currently State Forest Reserve (Na Pali-Kona Forest Reserve), within the Protective Subzone of the Conservation District. Located between and adjacent to the existing Hono o Na Pali Natural Area Reserve and the Alakai Reserve, the parcel is currently managed as a Forest Reserve and is used by the public as a public hunting area and for public recreation (hiking).

TMK 7-2-001-006 ("Proposed Poamoho Natural Area Reserve [NAR]) is currently State Forest Reserve (Ewa Forest Reserve, Poamoho section), within the Protective Subzone of the

ITEM C-1

Conservation District. Located on the leeward slope of the Koolau Mountains adjacent to the Oahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge, the parcel is currently managed as a Forest Reserve, is used as a public hunting area and for public recreation (hiking), and is part of the Kawaihoa Military Training Area (General Lease Number S-3846 and US Contract Number DA-94-626-ENG-78).

PROPOSED USE:

The proposed Hono o Na Pali expansion is recommended for inclusion in the Natural Area Reserve System, to provide increased protection and heightened management attention for a contiguous area running from the top of Mt. Waialeale to the ocean. This area contains intact native wet forest with several species of rare and endangered plants from the high-elevation bog community, is part of the core habitat for several species of endangered forest birds, and is likely rich with hundreds of species of native invertebrates. The draft proposal, approved in concept unanimously by the Natural Area Reserve Commission in August 2003, is attached as Exhibit 1.

The proposed Poamoho NAR is recommended for inclusion in the Natural Area Reserve System, to protect natural communities of the Koolau wet summit crest zone that are not well represented in the existing Natural Area Reserve System. The proposed area (the portion of the parcel located above the 1,800 foot elevation) contains numerous rare native plants and habitat for several native animal species, including the endangered 'ōpe'ape'a (Hawaiian hoary bat), endangered forest birds, and endangered tree snails. The draft proposal, approved in concept unanimously by the Natural Area Reserves Commission in September 2001, is attached as Exhibit 2.

ANALYSIS:

The Natural Area Reserves system was established to preserve and protect representative samples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems and geological formations for future generations. The system currently consists of 19 reserves on five islands, covering more than 109,000 acres. The diverse areas protected as natural area reserves (NARS) range from marine and coastal environments to lava flows, rainforests, and alpine desert. These areas provide the last remaining habitat for many endangered species, as well as protect core areas important as watershed.

Designation as a NAR provides an elevated level of protection for some of the most unique lands in the State, ensuring that the State's biological and geological heritage will be protected for future generations. The recent passage of the Legacy Lands Act, specifically authorizing the Department to use funds from the Natural Area Reserves Special Fund for management of the natural area reserves system, provides an additional benefit of designation of NAR in the form of increased funding for management actions needed to ensure preservation of native ecosystems.

HRS Chapter 195-4(b) requires the Department to conduct one or more public hearings prior to the designation of State lands under the jurisdiction of the Department into the Natural Area

Reserves system. The Natural Area Reserves Commission and NARS Staff recommend the designation of the above two areas, and request permission to conduct the required public hearing on the appropriate island. After the public hearing is conducted, the Division will return to the Board for final decision and action on each proposed designation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board :

- 1) grant permission to conduct a public hearing on Kauai regarding designation of State Forest Reserve land at Hono o Na Pali, Island of Kauai, TMK: 1-4-001-003 into the Natural Area Reserves System;
- 2) grant permission to conduct a public hearing on Oahu regarding designation of State Forest Reserve land at Poamoho, Island of Oahu, TMK: 7-2-001-006 into the Natural Area Reserves system;
- 3) authorize the Chairperson to set the dates and times for the respective public hearings; and
- 4) authorize the Chairperson to appoint hearing master(s) for the respective public hearings.

Respectfully submitted,


PAUL J. CONRY
Administrator

Attachments:

Exhibit 1: Proposal for the Extension of Hono o Na Pali Natural Area Reserve

Exhibit 2: Proposal for the Designation of a Poamoho Natural Area Reserve

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:


✓ PETER T. YOUNG, Chairperson
Board of Land & Natural Resources

**MINUTES FOR THE
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2005
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: KALANIMOKU BUILDING
LAND BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM 132
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Chairperson Peter Young called the meeting of the Board of Land and Natural Resources to order at 9:05 a.m. The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Mr. Peter Young
Mr. Ted Yamamura
Mr. Toby Martyn

Mr. Tim Johns
Mr. Ron Agor

STAFF

Mr. Russell Tsuji, Land
Ms. Charlene Unoki, Land
Mr. Morris Atta, Land
Mr. Eric Hirano, Engineering

Mr. Sam Lemmo, OCCL
Mr. Barry Cheung, Land
Mr. Dan Quinn, Parks
Mr. Paul Conry, DOFAW

OTHER

Mr. William Wynhoff, Deputy Attorney General
Mr. Keith Kirschbraun, D-10
Mr. Stevan Bailey, D-17

Mr. Steven Lim, D-7, K-2

{Note: language for deletion is [bracketed], new/added is underlined}

Item A-1: Minutes of October 14, 2005

Unanimously approved as submitted (Johns/Yamamura).